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MISSOURI CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Marjorie Slavens

In the January issue of this newsletter, we discussed plans for Missouri's 200 birthday in "MISSOURI 2021 BICENTENNIAL". The article says:

"August 10, 2021, will mark the two hundredth anniversary of Missouri's entry as the 24th state to enter the United States. A state with many different regional cultures, geographies, and industries, each Missouri community, county, and region has a story to tell about its people, their history, their commerce, and their culture. By celebrating the accomplishments and diversity of all these regions, we help create a better understanding of our one Missouri and the ties that bind us together.

A successful commemoration of Missouri's two hundredth year will engage all 114 counties and the City of St. Louis in a meaningful look at the Show-Me State's past, present, and future. Missourians will reflect on the events that have shaped their communities, counties, regions, and the entire State, while starting a new chapter in its unique history". (www.MISSOURI2021.ORG)(

We have tried throughout the year to review some of the history of this state by looking at our own family history in the first century of statehood. Julia Morse presented the Williams family who came to the St. Louis area in 1794 when it was not yet a part of the United States. She also discussed in three issues the Autobiography of John Milton Morris, in which he discussed the challenges faced by the settlers in Harmony Mission in Bates and Vernon Counties and also in Deepwater. Many of my pioneer ancestors came to the state in the early years of the first century of Missouri statehood: The Epprights, Weltys, Kerrs, Crawfords, and Heapes in Jasper County; the Epprights in Johnson County; the Tefertillers in Dade County; and in this issue, the Parks, McFarlands, Lunsfords and Peters in Henry County; and in August, I will discuss the Slavens and related families in Henry County. In this issue, Al Morse discusses his maternal grandfather, David Janssens, who came from Belgium to Missouri and joined the Joseph Mooney family in Clay county when he married Laura Jessie Mooney. They establish their family line in Bates County. Al and Julia have previously discussed their Morse, Woodfin, and Miller ancestors from their fathers' family history.

Missouri has been celebrating its birthday throughout this year, but the real day is coming in two weeks. The January article also reminds us: "While a time of celebration, it is also a time to reflect and to build a strong future for the State, setting the course for Missouri's next 200 years".

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

My mother was Mildred Catherine (Janssens) Morse, and her father was David Janssens. I am going to quote notes written by my cousin, Laura Frances (Seals) Scott. She did a great deal of research on our families.

"Document dated October 5, 1874:The Belgian Army stating David Janssens was born March 8, 1854 – in Santvliet province of Anviers – father Adrien Benoit – mother Danis, Isabelle. The family story was that David's parents paid some one to serve for him in the Belgian Army. (That was acceptable). NOTE: Adrien Benoit can be spelled Adrianus Benedictus; there are 3 languages spoken in Belgium.

His parents, Adrianus Benedictus Janssens and Isabella Danis, enrolled him in a private boys'

Catholic school when he was 7 years old. They lived in Zandvliet, Belgium near the Holland border.

David stayed in school, going to the Monastery when he was older. He was in training to become a Monk.When he was 25 or 26, he decided to leave the Monastery and come to America. He brought with him a small camel back trunk.

After coming to America, he went to Pennsylvania, Chicago, Illinois, And then to Harlem, Missouri, a small town on the Missouri River.

When he arrived in Harlem, he was told the best place to eat was Mooney's boarding house. At this place, he met his future wife, Laura Jessie Mooney, who was 15 at the time. She was waiting on tables. Soon, he asked Laura Jessie's father, Joseph Mooney, for his daughter's hand in marriage, as that was the custom in Belgium. Joseph Mooney informed him that his daughter could not get married until she was 18. David courted her for three years. She was 18 on April 21, 1889, and & they were married by a minister on April 23, 1889 in Kansas City, Missouri.

David was 35 years old at the time of his marriage. Joseph Mooney told David Janssens that he, (Joseph), came from an Irish Protestant family, not Irish Catholic. David and Laura Jessie had 14 children; five became Catholic, some Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Christian faith.

The intent to become a citizen by David Janssens was filed October 18, 1888 in Circuit Court – The State of MO, County of Jackson, Township of Kaw – Book 1 p 292. Document dated Oct 29, 1896. Notice of the Naturalization of David Janssens appeared in open Court, Division 4, Kansas City, MO. Jackson Co. stating he was a native of Belgium but applied for citizenship of the U.S. He had resided in the U.S. at least five years, and in the State of Missouri at least one year. Among other things, it states that 'he does absolutely renounce and abjure forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign power, Prince, State, and Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly that of King Leopold II of Belgium, of whom he is at present a subject.' Citizenship granted.

("The name, JANSSENS, in Belgium is the same as JOHNSON in the English countries and is derivative on Jan sone, meaning son of Jan & becomes JANSSONE & even in Belgium Janssens without the last S" (by G. Johnson, genealogist from Belgium who died July 1992)"

The mother of Laura Frances was Amy Henrietta (Janssens) Seals, child number 4. My mother was child number 12.

MISSOURI PIONEERS: PARKS AND MCFARLANDS

Marjorie Slavens

This month, I want to present my Parks and McFarland Missouri Pioneers, with some reference to the Lundsfords and Peters, in my family from Henry County .

In reviewwing this material, I am reminded of an old tradition I used when I was teaching Intermediate Spanish at Rockford University. The second chapter in the text presented family words in Spanish, parents, siblings, uncles, aunts, grandparents, etc. The class was conducted in Spanish, as in all of our classes, but I took a recording in English of the old country song, "I'm My Own Grandpa", and I told the classes when it was over that a part of their final exam for the course would be to translate it into Spanish. Of course, that was a joke, but it suggests to me the various interrelationships of my Parks and McFarland ancestors or those from these families who are not my ancestors but who have married some of my family members. Confusing enough? We will see.

In the early years, families and friends traveled and settled near each other, and it is not unusual to find Parks married to Parks. When a man died early, his wife needed to get married again in order to be able to support herself and her children. When a woman died early, her husband needed to marry again to find a care giver for himself and his children.

My mother, Mildred Welty Slavens, began her family research in the 1970s, but she spent most of her time on her own family lines and published books on them. We have several unpublished family books that include the Parks, Lunsfords, and McFarlands, but

they are far from being ready to publish.

The earliest Parks ancestor in this country we can find is John Parks from Ireland, born about 1714, who first came to Virginia. He married Rebecca McCampbell, born about 1716 and died about 1771-81. The Parks family went from Virginia to Lincoln County, Kentucky after the Revolutionary War. They had four children: William, born about 1760; Thomas, born 1761; Samuel, born 1764; and Martha, born 1769. William Parks was born about 1760 in Virginia. He married Catherine Payne, born May 24, 1761 in Virginia. She was the daughter of Reuben Payne and Agnes Wade. They had 7 children: Susanna, born November 13, 1781; John, born February 7, 1783; Reuben, born May 27, 1876; William, born December 18, 1788; Samuel, born October 12, 1793; James, born about 1797; and Peyton, born October 12, 1800. The Parks brothers first brought their families to Cooper County, Missouri from Kentucky and then went to Rives County, now Henry County.

The Parks settlement was started in 1833, being known as such from the fact that a large family of them came, nearly all from Lincoln County, Kentucky, and they all had families. Mr. John Parks, the father of William Parks, and others, settled on section 5, in township 40, range 24, or what is now Leesville Township, and his cabin was not far from the banks of Grand River. The family were scattered over the surrounding sections, being found on sections 5, 4, 3, 35, 34, 33, 27, and the Park family still owns from a half to three-quarters of all these sections, and others of the family are yet to be found in adjoining lots. Peyton Parks , who platted the town of Clinton, and was its first commissioner, settled on section 23, Tebo Township, and this was the home of Judge James Parks, probate judge. B. D. Parks settled in Leesville Township, on section 3." (*History of Henry County, 1883,* http://www.henrycomo.us/index.html)

John M. Parks, son of John Parks (second son of William Parks and Catherine Payne) and Agnes Pigg, was born in 1814 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. He married Nancy Peeler, daughter of Marshall Sherman Peelor, who came with his wife and three small daughters from Tennessee. The son of John M. Parks And Nancy Peeler was John Sherman Parks, born May 27, 1841, second husband of my great great grandmother, Susan Hilll McFarland Hesler Parks. After the death of his first wife, John M. Married Nancy Stewart on January 30, 1844, and she died before 1850. Their first child was Agnes Jane Parks Nichols Slavens, the second wife of my great great grandfather, George Washington Slavens, and the mother of his last 4 children. After the death of Nancy Stewart, John M. Parks married Elizabeth Holland Finks, and they had 6 children.

John Sherman Parks, son of John M. Parks and Nancy Peeler, was born May 27, 1841 in Henry County, Missouri. He served in the Confederate army during the Civil War. On March 27, 1865, He married Susan Hill McFarland Hesler, my great great grandmother. George Washington Slavens, a justice of the peace, performed the ceremony. She was the mother of Laura Martin Hesler Slavens Hesler, who married John Reuben Slavens, son of Nancy Jane Parks and George Washington Slavens, my other great great grandparents. John Sherman Parks died September 3, 1909 and Susan Hill McFarland Hesler Parks died February 24, 1928 in Henry County, Missouri. Both were buried in Good Hope Cemetery.

Susan Hill McFarland Hesler Parks first married Martin Hesler, who served in the Union Army for about a year before his death in 1862. Her family members were Confederate sympathizers. Her daughter, my great grandmother, Laura Hesler, said her father and one brother came north and served in the Union Army, and her grandfather, Jacob Hesler, of Kentucky, and a third son served in the Confederate Army. However, the records show that all three Hesler brothers left Kentucky before the Civil War and they were all Union soldiers. Jacob Hesler (1767-1851), served in the War of 1812 but had died before the Civil War. Laura Hesler received a pension until she was 16 years old because of her father's military service and death, but she remained a Confederate sympathizer until her death in 1946. Her mother married second John Sherman Parks, a Confederate veteran.

I never met the children of John Sherman Parks and Susan Hill Mcfarland Hesler and step brother and step-sisters of Laura Hesler: Eleanora N., born December 14, 1869; Myrtle Dee, born January 8, 1872; William Sherman, born April 24, 1875; died

July 19, 1876 and Birdie Jane, born November 22, 1878. Laura Hesler Slavens had left Henry County in 1887 following the death of her first husband, and she did not return for many years to Henry County until my father took her to see her mother shortly before she died in 1928. My paternal grandmother, Edna Marie Westmeier Slavens, corresponded regularly with Birdie Jane Parks Witherspoon and Edna Gertrude Slavens Brown in Henry County, but we did not meet either the descendants of the Parks or Slavens there.

My 4 great grandfather, Reuben Parks , son of William Parks and Catherine Payne, was born May 27, 1786 in Kentucky, He married Nancy Lunsford, who was born on October 29, 1789, on May 2, 1809 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Rodham Lunceford, Jr., who served in the Revolutionary War, and Clementine Ball. The children of Reuben and Nancy were: Elizabeth, born March 28, 1810; Susan A. born March 14, 1812; Catherine , born February 22, 1814; Bird, born April 21, 1816; William, Sr., born January 13, 1819; Samuel, born May 1, 1821, died 1827; Rosa Jane, born April 3, 1824; Reuben, Jr. born January 31, 1826, Lincoln County, Kentucky; died November 8, 1898, Henry County, Mo.; Wade David, born March 26, 1829; Nancy, born July 30, 1831. Reuben died on August 31, 1842, and Nancy died February 17, 1874. Both are buried in Parks Chapel Cemetery.

Peyton Parks, son of William Parks (1753-87) and Agnes Peyton Collier (1753-)?, was born in 1774 in Piddsville, Virginia. He married Rebecca Catherine Yantis, daughter of Jacob Yantis and Ruth Christman, on December 22, 1802 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. They first moved to Cooper County, Missouri and then to Henry County with other family members. He died in February, 1850 in Henry County.The children of Peyton and Rebecca were Nancy, born September 25, 1805, Almira, born August 26, 1809, died July 7, 1846; William, born August 26, 1809, died, 1854, Henry County; James Yantis, born February 6, 2014; Bird Deatherage, born 5 May 8, 1818-1903; Martha Ellen, born August 7, 1820, died 1852; Alexander, born July 7, 1823

My 3 great grandparents, William Parks 1809-1854, son of Peyton Parks and Rebecca Yantis, and Susan Parks Parks (1812-1900), daughter of Reuben Parks and Nancy Lunsford, were born and married in Lincoln County, Kentucky. They came to Cooper County, Missouri from Kentucky in 1827 and to Henry County (then known as Rives County) in 1835 and settled on section 15. He was listed in the 1840 census with his wife and three daughters, Mary, Nancy, and Martha, in Henry County. Their children were: Mary Catherine, born 1832; Nancy Jane, born July 23, 1835; Martha E., born February 22, 1838; Reuben B., born about 1840; Elizabeth Almira, born 1843;Infant son, born and died September, 1845; buried Parks Chapel Cemetery; Jacob Yantis, born March 10, 1847; Peyton Alexander, born 1850; Rebecca Ruth, born, 1853.

My great great grandmother, Nancy Jane Parks, born June 23, 1835, married George Washington Slavens August 4, 1853. She died December 5, 1867, and is buried with her children, William and Lillie May, in Parks Chapel Cemetery. His second wife, Agnes Jane Parks Nichols slavens and his third wife, Sarah Settles Brown Slavens, are buried with him in Bethlehem Cemetery. George and Nancy had 6 children, Mary Calista, William P., John Reuben, my great grandfather, Lillie, Susan, and Jessie Yantis. Jessie, 12, lived with her grandmother, Susan Parks, in 1880.

Peyton Parks, son of William Parks and Catherine Payne, was born on October 12, 1800 in Kentucky. He married Almira Parks , daughter of Peyton Parks and Rebecca Yantis, who was born on August 26, 1809. She was a twin of William Parks, my 3 great grandfather. She died July 7, 1846 in Henry County, Missouri.

James McFarland, son of John McFarland, Jr. and Mary Kinder, was born December 20, 1773 in Fincastle, Virginia. He married Frances Webb April 9, 1793. She was born May 8, 1774. They had 11 children. He died in Cooper County, Missouri. After his death, his widow, Fanny, lived with her son and daughter-in-law, James McFarland and Nancy Peters.

James McFarland, son and fourth child of James McFarland and Frances Webb, was born February 3, 1799 in Buncombe, North Carolina. He was married before 1820 in Cooper County, Missouri to Nancy Peters, the daughter and third child of Samuel

Peters. Samuel Peters settled in Cooper County, Palestine Township in 1818. The History of Cooper County said he had several children, seven of whom are mentioned. In his old age, he lived with his daughter, Nancy, and son-in-law, James; he was not living with them in 1860 according to the census.

According to church letters of the Baptist Church of Mt. Pleasant in Cooper County, James and Nancy McFarland moved to Henry County, Missouri in 1856. They entered 80 acres of land granted from the government on May 11, 1857. They were members of Good Hope Church. There was little activity during the Civil War, and they did not meet for 25 months, but in 1865, they reorganized the church and had 20 members. After the war, the church was given the name "Good Hope" by James McFarland. They had 11 children, and the youngest was Susan Hill McFarland Hesler Parks, my great great grandmother. During the Civil War, James McFarland and his daughter, Susie, took a lumber wagon after the death of her husband, Martin T. Hesler of the Iowa Cavalry, who died in Springfield, Missouri December 12, 1862, and traveled 90 miles to bring the body back for burial in the Good Hope Cemetery. James died January 6, 1863, about 3 weeks later, near Coal, Henry County, Missouri and was buried in Good Hope Cemetery. Nancy Peters McFarland died January 1, 1879 near Coal, and was buried beside James in Good Hope Cemetery. (Notes from Birdie Jane Parks Witherspoon)

We submitted the following obituary to the USGenweb site, which has an excellent collection of Henry County obituaries. Although my great grandmother, Laura Martin Hesler Slavens Hesler, was listed in the obituary and was still living when her mother died, she is not listed as a survivor. She was living in Asbury, Jasper County, Missouri and had visited her mother before her death. She died in Pittsburg, Kansas in July, 1946. The obituary reflects the life our Missouri pioneers experienced in the 19th Century.

PARKS, Susan Hill Mcfarland Hesler - 1846 - 1928
Good Hope Cemetery, Bethlehem Twp, Henry Co, MO
Susie H. Parks was born in Cooper County, Missouri September 1, 1846 and died February 24, 1928, age 81 years, 5 months and 23 days. She was married to Martin Hesler August, 1861. To this union, one daughter, Laura Martin, was born. His death came December 15, 1862. On March 27, 1865, she was united in marriage to John Sherman Parks, who passed away September 3, 1909. To this union, four children were given, Elnora, Myrtle Dee, William Sherman, and Birdie Jane, who is the only one of the four now living. Besides her own children, she reared her daughter, Dee's, three children, and she also gave a home to two orphan girls. She helped in all church and Sunday School activities in her own community.

In 1856, her parents (James and Nancy Peters McFarland) came from Cooper County, Missouri and entered the land now known as the John Shoemaker farm, lying just north and adjoining Good Hope Church. Her father selected the present site of Good Hope Cemetery. The first grave was a baby's, who died during the Civil War, and was carried by an uncle on a horse to that cemetery.

Her character was a product of the pioneer times in which she was reared. The dominating traits were determination, persistence, courage, patience, and hospitality. She enjoyed life to its fullest extent and maintained an interest in current events up until the very last of her illness. She read much and kept abreast of the times. No braver fight was ever waged against disease than this one waged by her against the cancer that finally conquered her physical condition. To the last, she maintained an interest in her pure bred poultry and was a passionate lover of flowers, they, thriving and blooming for her when they would for no one else. Her vegetable garden was as good as the best in the community. She was an accomplished needle woman, and up until the time of her last illness, she did all kinds of embroidery and sewing. With her passing, a loving mother and grandmother and a useful neighbor and friend has gone from our midst. Funeral services were conducted by Brother Billy Briggs at Good Hope Church February 25, 1928. We wish to thank kind neighbors for their help and sympathy during the last illness."

The Henry County USGenweb site, coordinated by Linda M. Everhart, is the best USGenweb site I have encountered, and it contains extremely valuable genealogical information about the Parks, Lunceford,

and Slavens families. It has, for many years, been a very important resource for those who have family history in that county.We were able to contribute some of the obituaries on that site. The cemeteries are presented very well. On that site, I discovered Nancy Lunsford Parks, about whom I knew nothing, my 4 great grandmother, and wife of Reuben Parks. On Gencircles several years ago, I found a file that traced her family back to England in the 14th century.

WHERE TO SHARE THOSE OLD FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS ONLINE

Julia Morse

This past month, I stumbled across a small collection of antique family photographs that I want to post online so current and future family researchers interested in these photographs can find them.

If you already share an online family tree on Ancestry.com or MyHeritage, you have the option of posting the photographs on these sites. By default, these photos become available for other subscribers to discover. The downside is the word, "subscriber": the photo may not be accessible to non-subscribers.

There are, however, options for sharing family history-related photographs where the general public can openly find them. "Family History Magazine" contributor Sunny Jane Morton categorizes options into "3 Places to Share Family History Documents and Images Online": (1) community trees, (2) digital archives, and (3) your own family website. (https://www.familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/3-places-to-share-family-history-documents-and-images-online/)

Examples of "Community Trees" are the FamilySearch Family Tree, WikiTree, and Geni.com. These are collaborative trees that allow multiple users to contribute to one shared family tree. If family members related to your photographs already have correctly-documented profiles in these trees, it should be straightforward to upload their photographs or documents to these profiles. (You will be required to set up a login in order to contribute, or, in some cases, access records, but these are free.)

If your photographs belong to individuals whose profiles have not yet been set up in one of these global collaborative trees, it is possible for you to become a collaborator to add them to the tree yourself, though this extra step is a bit more time-consuming. Adding to a collaborative tree comes with the expectation of meticulous provision of sources and documentation for each piece of data added. You could annoy or anger other collaborators if you enter or change information without appropriately inputting support citations. Also, it sometimes takes a bit of time to learn how to navigate this data entry. On the other hand, the time invested in learning how to be a responsible collaborator can take you to a new level of family history research.

One of the benefits of submitting to FamilySearch Family Tree is that you are placing your photos into the collection of a real archival "library" that has a decades-long track record substantiating their commitment to providing long-term, open-access to family history documentation. FamilySearch collaborates with many other non-profit libraries. If you want your photographs to be available for generations to come, getting them into the FamilySearch Family Tree database seems a good strategy.

"Digital archives" is the next broad category of places to share your family history images. These include something as generic as Flickr.com, or as specific as FindAGrave, fold3.com, or MyHeritage global photo upload.

Flickr.com allows a user to create albums, which may be useful for grouping related photos. With this option, you depend on researchers finding the photographs when they do general web searches on the individuals. Make sure you enter names, geographic location, or other key terms to accompany the photos.

If I have one or two antique photo portraits of a person or family, my first "go-to" place to share the photos is FindAGrave, where the photo is almost sure to be visited at some point by researchers interested in the individuals in the photographs. FindAGrave makes it very easy for beginners to upload one or two portraits to an individual's memorial. (There is a limit of five per memorial.) All you need to do is set up a free FindAGrave login, click on the "Photos" tab of the memorial, and then the "Add a Photo" button.

One site that I would add to the list of "Digital Archives" is DeadFred.com. This free site is particularly suited to those "mystery" photographs which you cannot positively link to an individual in a family tree. For example, a photograph which may have been labeled with a name but it is not a known person in your family and you don't know which "Jane Phillips" she might be! Photographs of mystery individuals but known studios can be uploaded by the place name.

Civil War photographs can be contributed to civilwarphotosleuth.com.

If you have several photographs of individuals from a particular county or region, the U.S. Genweb site for that county may be interested in posting them. You can also check out the local historical society or genealogy library to see if they maintain an online photo collection. (They may also be equipped to archive originals when you are short on a family curator to pass them down through the family.)

Sunny Jane Morton's third suggestion for sharing family history photos online is to place them on your own family history website. This option provides flexibility and capacity for you to share more of the known story behind the photographs, or to present a collection of photographs in your own creative way, to be found by interested researchers in their Internet searching. It is a great option for someone who wants to put a lot of time into telling their family story and developing connections with current researchers of that family. However, I would recommend that no one depend on a personal website as the one way of sharing your family research and documents with others, as it will not always be there in the future if your account with the web provider expires, or if the web host ceases to exist in the future. It is a good way to present the photos and documents to others with all the commentary and creative free form you desire, but it

is not a substitute for getting your historical family photos permanently archived with a reputable library such as FamilySearch.

Wherever you post photographs online, most family researchers will thank you for putting as much key information as appropriate with the photograph, typically as a caption or tagnames. I try to indicate what person or branch of the family was the source of the photo or collection, as this provides a sense of validity of the identification. For example, my photographs of ancestor Eliza Christlieb Sykes were from my paternal grandmother Martha Sykes Morse's collection. In cases where there was information written on the back, particularly at an earlier time, it may be helpful to include a scan of the backside. If I know whose handwriting identified the photo, I state that. After all, Grandma's handwriting on a photo of her mother or sister can be trusted. Though tedious, this is especially helpful when the identification is questioned. (I have recently discovered that one of the photographs penciled with an identification of "Eliza Christlieb" on the back is probably not Eliza, but her mother-in-law.)

If your photograph is a "real photo post card"—a photograph with the back printed for mailing as a postcard--a researcher can reference the stamp area markings to help date the photo print, so include a scan of the back of the post card, even if it is otherwise blank. Studio stampings on the photo or an integrated studio frame are helpful in confirming identification. Even the card border on which the photo was originally mounted are helpful for establishing time and place, so for archival research purposes, it is helpful not to crop these out of the scan.

To avoid overwhelm, consider which online posting has the best chance of getting your photograph to its intended audiences. I focus on getting directly-identified photos associated to individuals on a community tree and the FindAGrave memorial. Collections of photos may deserve an additional web space such as Flickr or family pages where they can be presented together with relative family narrative.

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